



Edwin D. 'Dave' Woellner, Jr.
306th Bomb Group, 368th Squadron

The attached images from the 1940s portion of Woellner's life, were scanned by the 306th BG Historical Association by permission in 2019, prior to the originals of Dave Woellner's memorabilia ultimately being donated, as he had designated, to the National World War II Museum at New Orleans. After General Woellner's passing 27 August 2020 at 98 in Sun City, Arizona, his surviving wife Jean Bayus-Woellner graciously supplied much of the below recap of his life in retirement. General Woellner and his wife Jean Bayus-Woellner attended the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association Reunions in Washington, DC (2010); San Diego, CA (2011); and Savannah, GA (2012).

Born 27 December 1921 in Ohio, Edwin Davis Woellner, Jr, initially enlisted voluntarily as a single resident (with no dependents) of Hamilton County, Ohio, with two years of college, at Cincinnati as an Aviation Cadet in the Army Air Corps on 3 January 1942. Careful review of his memorabilia shows he had long pursued an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

In a letter of 14 May 1943, an appointment to West Point was offered by Ohio's Congressman Elston to then-2nd Lt. Woellner, who was then assigned to the 75th Reconnaissance Squadron, 21st Reconnaissance Group, perhaps stationed somewhere in England, we can surmise from Dave's response. The draft copy of his response (handwritten, undated, on the back of Congressman Elston's letter) shows his gracious regret at declining the honor of the West Point appointment in order to continue his commitment in the service. By the time the Congressman's May 1943 letter finally reached Dave "due to the frequent changes" he had experienced, he wrote that his father was then "here in England also, & stationed not too far" away; he relayed that his father shared his disappointment & sent his very best regards.

On 26 September 1944, 1st Lt. Edwin D. Woellner, Jr, was assigned as 368th Sq pilot with the 306th BG, at Thurleigh, Station 111 of the US Army Air Corps in England. On 29 December 1944, he was MIA [Missing In Action] in the Bingen mission, also known as mission to Siegburg and Koblenz. As a POW [Prisoner of War] he was detained by Germany at Stalag Luft 1.

The full crew on the B-17 on 29 Dec 1944: Pilot 1st Lt. Edwin D. Woellner Jr; Copilot 2nd Lt. Carmon J. Nickols; Navigator 2nd Lt. Theodore E. Pollard; Engineer T/Sgt Clarence E. Gibbs; Nose gunner T/Sgt Frank L. Arnold; Radio operator T/Sgt Glenn A. Korf; Waist gunner Cpl Franklin J. Lehnert; Ball turret gunner Sgt Homer C. Nyberg; Tail gunner S/Sgt Yuen Hop.

Scans from that period include various types of communications (telegrams, letters, cards) and news clippings. Good recaps of the delayed information gradually available to downed-crew members' families throughout their POW period, can be seen in telegrams to his then-British war bride in England, his mother in Cincinnati, Ohio, and his father (then a Colonel serving in the US Army in Belgium); and in the onion-skin typed letters from the parents of the crew's waist gunner, Franklin Lehnert, that were sent to the family members of all of their son's fellow crew members.

Woellner prepared his own one-page summary, headed "RELATED EVENTS – WWII EDW" (scan of which is included here) of that war time period; on the back of his summary is handwritten the name of the VP for Marketing and Communications at Wittenberg University, in Springfield, Ohio, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree.

After World War II, Dave continued in the service onward with the USAF, while his father, Colonel Edwin D. Woellner [Sr], returned to Cincinnati and separated from the service. The last

scanned document here from the 1940s is a 28 September 1949 Commendation of Dave, recognizing then-Captain Edwin D. Woellner, Assistant Professor of Air Science and Tactics at the University of Kentucky (Lexington, KY), for superior performance while on temporary duty at Slocum Air Force Base, New Rochelle, New York.

During his military years, Dave did graduate work in Management Science at the University of Maryland, University of Kentucky, and University of California, Sacramento. He served 20 years on active duty, and then joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves immediately upon his retirement from active duty, spending another 20 years in the reserves, attaining the rank of Brigadier General.

From 1969-1974 Dave was Inspector General and acting Vice Commander, Central Air Force Region command at Ellington Air Force Base [AFB] near Houston, Texas. He also served at Air Force Reserve Command headquartered at Robins AFB, south of Macon, Georgia. General Woellner was the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Outstanding Office Reservist and the entire command's Outstanding Reservist for 1975.

He worked for Republic Steel; served with the American Security Council; was involved in other enterprises; and was active in civic organizations including the Air Force Association; Military Order of World Wars; American Legion; American Red Cross; and Rotary Club. General Woellner was a frequent speaker at numerous events, including Master of Ceremonies for 9/11 events more than 12 times.



Airfield in England
1942-3

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

May 14, 1943

2nd Lt. Edwin Davis Woellner, Jr.
Serial No. O-795113
75th Reconnaissance Squadron
21st Reconnaissance Group
Northern Field, Tennessee

Dear Lieutenant Woellner:

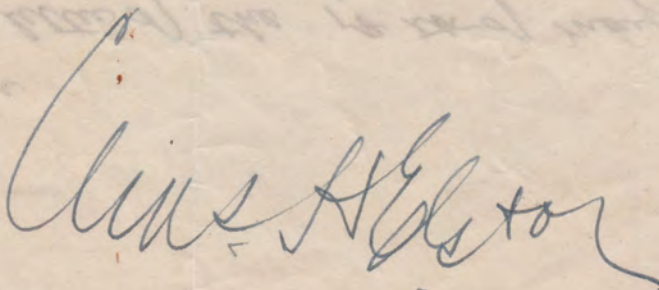
This year you were designated a first alternate appointee to West Point and the War Department now advises me that because of the failure of a principal candidate to qualify, I may designate a new principal.

As I have been anxious to give you a principal appointment I am writing to ask if you desire to accept it. Should you accept this appointment it will only be necessary that you resubmit the same certificate you submitted last year. In other words you would not have to take an examination but merely submit a certificate showing your attendance at an accredited college and that you have graduated from an accredited High School or preparatory school. Of course, you would have to take a physical examination but as you have already passed a West Point physical examination and have also qualified in the Army Air Forces you should have no trouble in this respect.

While it would be necessary to obtain a release from your commanding officer in the event you accepted appointment to West Point, the War Department knows of no case where this has ever been refused. You are probably aware of the fact that Congress recently passed a law providing for flight training at West Point so that cadets may qualify as flight officers upon graduation.

I shall appreciate your advising me of your decision at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,



CHE:zw

Dear Mr Elston

I received your letter of the 14th of May only two days ago due to the frequent changes that I have made -

It is most regrettable for me not to have been in a position whereby I could have accepted the appointment to the Academy at West Point for quite some time, as you know, I had been striving to achieve that honor, but another ^{task} ~~job~~ has been placed in my hands, & although that job has caused me to relinquish a life-long ambition, I shall give my utmost to it.

It may be of some interest to you to know that my father is here in England also, & stationed not too far from me. I telephoned him when I received your letter; he shared my disappointment & sends to you his very best regards.

I extend full appreciation & thanks for your consideration & hope that I may have the opportunity of meeting you personally.

Sincerely yours

to pay d. 8/1/45

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

No. 254 OFFICE STAMP

Prefix Time handed in Office of Origin and Service Instructions Words

6

From 306 5.50 OF 19 TH LONDON TELEX

REDTD FROM BEDFORD 55

TO MRS BERYL WOELLNER 7 QUEENS T SWINDON

= REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR HUSBAND FIRST
LEIUT EDWIN DOGE WOELLNER JR HAS BEEN REPORTED
MISSING IN ACTION SINCE TWO NINE DECEMBER PD IF
FURTHER DETAILS OR OTHER INFORMATION ARE RECEIVED
YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED CMA LETTER FOLLOWS =
DWIGHT D EISENHOWER GENERAL UNITED STATES ARMY +

**19 January 1945 telegram to wife Beryl in England, notifying her that her husband has been
Missing In Action since 29 December 1944**

JEEI V JEPX NR R-37

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: HQ EUROPEAN T OF OPNS APO 887 US ARMY 152307A
TO : CG FUSA APO 230

QQY GR NC BT

REF NR E-99064 CONFIDENTIAL

CONF. WOELLNER CMA TRANSMIT TO COLONEL ADWIN DOG WOELLNER
ZERO TWO SIX FOUR TWO NINE GENERAL STAFF AG CAS DIV PAREN SIGNED
EISENHOWER PAREN QUOTE REPORT JUST RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNA-
TIONAL RED CROSS STATES THAT YOUR SON FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWIN
DOG WOELLNER JUNIOR IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE E GERMAN GOVERNMENT
PD UNQUOTE BT

152307A

AS CCNS NONE
C.C.H. (AR)

JEEI RD.....16/0450A

CL

AR

*True copy.
Edwin Woellner.
Col. G.S.C.*

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

L = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

WM28 W. WHUC 395 35 GOVT-WUX WASHINGTON DC 14 11 00

Feb 14

WM28 EDWIN D WOELLNER-SR-

13884 BISHOP ST CIN OHIO-

REPORT JUST RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS
STATES THAT YOUR SON FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWIN WOELLNER JR IS
A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT LETTER OF
INFORMATION FOLLOWS FROM PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL
ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

s. d. **POST OFFICE** No. **OFFICE STAMP**

RECEIVED CT 7 UN + +

Prefix. Time handed in Office of C. gin and Service Instructions. Words.

46

7.46 e m 46 3.20 LONDON TELE PVT DURN OF 16 TH

From 46 =

MRS BERYL L WOLLNER 7 BUN STREET SLEND
WILTSHIRE ENGLAND =

REPORT JUST RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED
CROSS STATES THAT YOUR HUSBAND FIRST LIEUTENANT
EDWIN DOG WOLLNER JUNIOR IS A PRISONER OF WAR OF THE

G.N.P.Co. Ltd. 51-7906

Feb 1945 telegram to English wife that her husband is POW of the Germans [continuation page missing]

Lt. Edwin D. Woellner Jr., 23, bomber pilot, son of Col. E. D. Woellner, on duty in Belgium, and of Mrs. E. D. Woellner, 3384 Bishop St., Clifton.

Lt. Edwin D. Woellner Jr., 23, son of Col. and Mrs. E. D. Woellner, 3384 Bishop St., Clifton, is a prisoner of the Germans. A fighter pilot, he had been missing over Austria since January 29. His father is serving in Belgium.

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1945

Prisoner

*LT. EDWIN DAVIS WOELLNER JR., 23, bomber pilot, son of Col. E. D. Woellner Sr., now in Belgium, and Mrs. Woellner, of 3384 Bishop street, is a prisoner of the Germans, his parents have learned. He is the husband of Mrs. Beryl Williams Woellner of England.

*Previously reported missing.

1st Lt. Edwin D. Woellner, Jr.

Pilot Prisoner

Mrs. Beryl L. Woellner (Wife)
7 Queen Street
Swinden Wiltshire, England

Mrs. Edwin D. Woellner, Sr. (Mother)
3384 Bishop Street
Cincinnati, Ohio

2nd Lt. Carmon J. Nickols

Co-pilot Missing KILLED

Mr. Albert C. Nickols (Father)
Pickton, Texas

2nd Lt. Theodore E. Pollard

Navigator Prisoner

Mr. Claude A. Pollard (Father)
Rural Route Number Three
Boone, Iowa

T/Sgt. Frank L. Arnold

Prisoner

Mrs. Iva P. Arnold (Mother)
5409 Southwest 9th Street
Des Moines, Iowa

T/Sgt. Clarence E. Gibbs

Missing

Mrs. Mildred M. Brown (Sister)
Route Number One
Clinton, South Carolina

T/Sgt. Glenn A. Korf

Missing

Mrs. Lena D. Korf (Mother)
Rural Free Delivery Number One
Chesaning, Michigan

Sgt. Homer C. Nyberg

Missing

Mrs. Virginia L. Nyberg (Wife)
Route Number One
Clay Center, Kansas

Sgt. Franklin J. Lehnert

Prisoner

Mr. Frank J. Lehnert (Father)
2805 118th Street
Toledo, Ohio

S/Sgt. Yuen Hop

Tail Gunner

Missing

Mrs. Chan Hop (Mother)
364 Pitt Avenue
Sebastopol, California

Toledo, Ohio.

March 3rd, 1945.

Dear Friends;-

Our Son Franklin, was a gunner on plane that was hit by flak over target on Dec. 29th, 1944, and reported mission on that date.

On Feb 10th we received a telegram from the Government informing us that our son was a prisoner of the German Government. Since that time we have received no word from the Government nor have we received any word from our son.

We received a letter from the pilot of the plane, that Franklin was regularly assigned to, telling us that he saw the plane when it was hit by flak and that several of his crew saw about 5 or six chutes open up, and they all felt sure that all the members of the crew would be prisoners of war.

We are just wondering if any of you, or all of you have received the same information, and if it is possible that any one of you received any information more than what we have mentioned.

We are keeping in close contact with the Red Cross, and also the members of "Our Crew" and are assured that if they receive any word that would be of any help to us, would let us know. We in turn will pass any information we receive to you, and would appreciate hearing from you if you have any good news, such as where the boys might be located etc. before we receive word through the Red Cross or Government.

Joining you in prayer for the safety of our boys, we hope that this war will soon be over, so that we may all be together again, living normal lives.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Lehnert
Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Lehnert,
2805- 118th St.,
Toledo, 11, Ohio.

Toledo, Ohio.
March 9th, 1945.

Dear Friends:-

First we would like to tell you that we just received a letter from our son Franklin, and it was postmarked from stalag XIII D

He tells us that he is in splendid health and his moral is very high, and food is enough to exist on. Had a safe and comfortable trip to his permanent camp, but that the camp is worse than the one that he had just left. His card is dated Feb. 4th 1945 postmarked Feb 8th and we received it today.

We hope that all of you have received better news since the last time we wrote to you.

To. Mr. & Mrs. Arnold; Received your letter stating that you received telegram reporting your son Frank prisoner of war of the German Government. We can not say just what happened to the plane as we were not informed about that, but if you will note in your letter from J A Ulio, Major General, Washington, D.C. second paragraph he states that it is policy of the Commanding General to convey any details of the missing Air Crew Report upon receipt by him. We do not have the name of the Commanding General, but that no doubt can be obtained thru the War Dept.

To. Mr. & Mrs. Pollard;- The pollard's state that they received word that their son is a prisoner of war, and that they received 16 letters and cards from people unknown to them saying they have heard that Ted was on the short wave broadcast on the night of Feb 24th at 9:15 pm, and was at stalag Luft # 1 in Germany. Ted stated that being a prisoner of war is not too difficult and that the weather is not too cold. Also says that he is uninjured and well. In your letter we also notice contact has been made with Mr. & Mrs. Arnold.

To. Mrs. Virginia Nyberg;- Read your letter stating that on Jan 18th you were informed that your husband has been missing since Dec. 20th, but since that time have received no word from the Government nor the Red Cross. In regard to you not knowing the other members of the crew have attached a copy of list of next of kin also crew members that our son was with. This list was sent to us by the Government and possibly you who have a Prisoner of War report might have that list by now. The phone message you received from Des Moines probably was Mrs. Arnold.

To. Mr. & Mrs. Gin Hop and Co. Thanks very much for the picture. Shall we send it back or may we keep it? You can be well proud of your son, and brother as well as the other parents and wives, as they are a nice looking crew. We wish that you would give us the names of the boys that you know on that picture, listing them from left to right, front row then back row. We also notice that there are 10 boys in the picture and we understand that there are only 9 in the crew. Franklin's crew had only 8 can you tell us when and where the picture was taken, evidently in camp sometime ago. Our son is not in the picture as he was a replacement and we have contacted every parent of that crew and our son is the only one missing in that crew. It may be that some of the boys had to bail out to reduce the weight of the plane and that the others had to stay to land the plane in a forced landing, that way they may be miles apart, and might go to different camps.

If any of the other parents have a picture of M.C.D. R.T.U. crew 353 and know any of the names of the boys would like to have them.

Wledo, Ohio March 17th, 1945.

Dear Friends:-

Wish to acknowledge letters from Mrs. B. Woellner, Mr. & Mrs. Gin Hop, Mrs. Arnold, Virginia Lee Nyberg and Mrs. L. Korff.

As we stated on March 8th we received a card from our son, and then on March 9th we received a letter which was postmarked the day after the card.

Mrs. Korff advised us that she had one son killed in action of Oct, 29th and we surely want to extend our sympathy to the family, and we know that we are expressing the opinion of all the parents when we tell you that we are very sorry to hear new of this kind. Mrs. Korff also advises that the plane her son was in was shot down over Frankfurt Germany, according to word received from a buddy of Glenn. Up to the time of March 8th Mrs. Korff has not received any other word but that he was missing in action.

Mrs. Virginia Nyberg has received no other word from or about her husband.

Mr. & Mrs. Chan Hop have received no other word about their son. Mrs. Hop thinks that Lt. Pollard was the navigator of the original crew that Yuen was with, and if the Arnolds have the names of the crew, and Yuen was in that crew I am sure that Mrs. Hop would greatly appreciate receiving the list of names.

Mrs. Hop want to say that we have mailed about 25 or thirty letters to our son since we have had the news, and my wife and Frankie girl friend and myself ask about at least 2 of the crew each time that we write to him. We are not sure that Frankie will be able to say anything about the boys but we do ask how they are, and in that way we feel that Frank might say something about some of them, and they would know that we know who the crew was. I am inclosing a form that we send to Frankie and if you will just print what you want to say to Frank and tell him to write to us we may get some information but be sure to avoid saying anything about victory, the war, just limit your letter to personal affairs etc. The forms can be obtained from the Post Office and in mailing them be sure to hand the letter to a clerk in the post office so that it is not stamped, as sometimes a victory stamp is put on it and it comes back.

Mrs. Arnold received a card from her son saying he is well and doing ok. It looks as if we have found two of the boys together as they both are in Stalag XIII D

Mrs. Bessie Woellner reports that her husband visited the boys camp in England and was told that the plane was hit with flak, and went down under control with three motors out, and that they all felt sure that all the crew were prisoners of war. Her son was reported as prisoner of war, and being the pilot it would seem to me that all the others must be safe as we are told the pilot is the last one out of the plane in case of trouble. Dave Woellner's wife lives in England close to the base where the boys were located, and it may be that she would have more information, but she is expected to be on her way back home to the States so it will be hard to contact her. Dave's father is with the First Army.

We write these letters to try to keep all informed on what news we receive, but if there are any of you that have something you would like to ask or something that we can do for you don't hesitate to write. We know some of you are anxious to get good news and we believe that Mrs. Bessie Woellner did give us some news that looks very good to us.

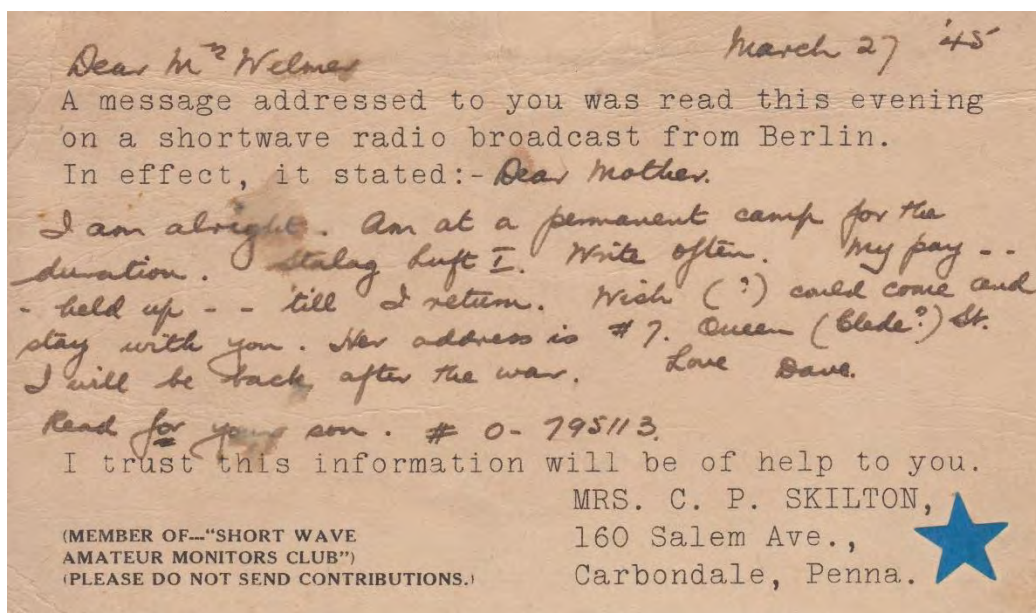
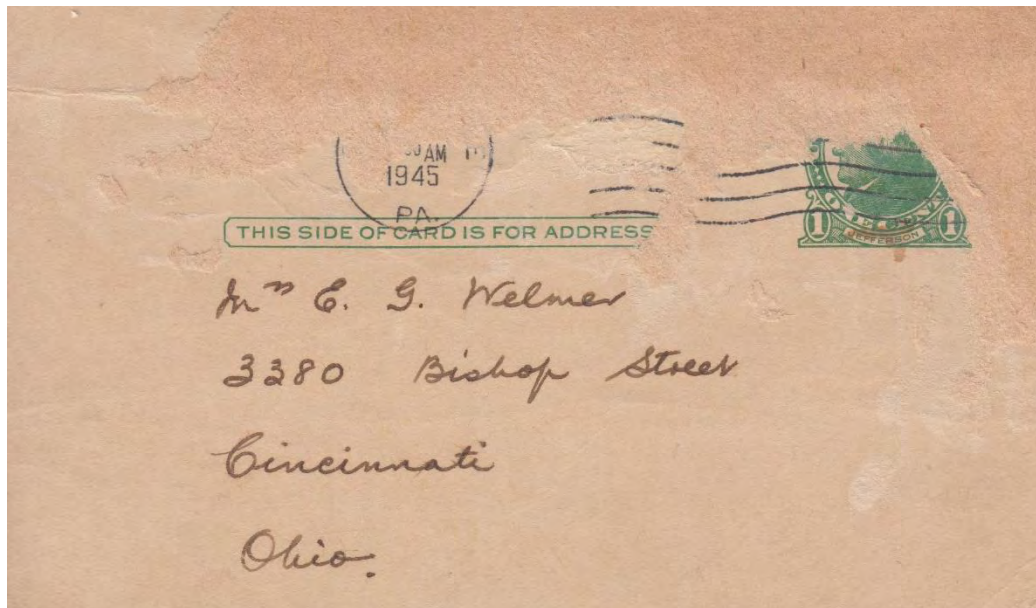
Just as soon as we hear more will write to all of you, and should we have anything about any one boy will immediately write.

Joining you in prayer for the safety of these boys, as well as all the other boys and girls in the service, we are,

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Frank J Lehnert.

Frank J. Lehnert



27 March 1945 volunteer sent postcard to mother (spelling phonetically) re German shortwave broadcast that she heard

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This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

WM29 W.WMUD 127 GOVT NL PD=WUX WASHINGTON DC 30

MRS E D WOELLNER=

33V 2280 BISHOP ST CINCINNATI OHIO=

MAR 30 PM 6 04

FOLLOWING ENEMY PROPAGANDA BROADCAST FROM GERMANY HAS BEEN
INTERCEPTED QUOTE DEAR MOTHER I AM ALL RIGHT AND HAVE REACHED
MY PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR THE DURATION PLEASE WRITE OFTEN ALL
OF YOU I HAVE NOT MADE ANY ARRANGEMENTS . . . SO ALL MY
PAYMENTS ARE JUST HELD UNTIL MY RETURN I AM AFRAID SHE MAY BE
LOST WITHOUT HELP AND I WISH SHE COULD TALK TO YOU HER HOME
ADDRESS IS NO SEVEN QUEEN STREET ILL BE BACK WITH YOU AFTER
THE WAR KEEP POSTED ON EVERYTHING LOVE EDWIN D WOELLNER JR

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

0795113 STALAG LUFT ONE GERMANY UNQUOTE THIS BROADCAST
SUPPLEMENTS ALL PREVIOUS REPORTS STOP=
LERCH PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL.

MAR 30 PM 6 04

0795113..

30 March 1945 telegram to mother re broadcast from Germany (also reported to mother by volunteer's postcard)



ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



24 April 1945

Mrs. Beryl L. Woellner
7 Queen Street
Swinden, Wiltshire, England

Dear Mrs. Woellner:

The Provost Marshal General has directed me to inform you that your husband, First Lieutenant Edwin D. Woellner, has been reported to be a prisoner of war of the German Government interned at Stalag Luft 1, Germany. No prisoner of war number was given.

Instructions for communicating with your husband may be procured from the British Red Cross.

The American Red Cross has been requested to certify him to the British Red Cross, London, England, as a United States prisoner of war, and you may expect to receive parcel labels from them to be used for the purpose of sending packages to your husband.

Further information will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received.

Sincerely yours

Howard F. Bresee

HOWARD F. BRESEE
Colonel, CMP
Director, American Prisoner of War
Information Bureau
Provost Marshal General's Office

Toledo, Ohio.

April 27th, 1945.

Dear Friends:-

We are writing this letter to persons who have sons that have been reported as prisoners of war, by the government or who have heard from their sons directly.

We understand that most of the camps have been liberated and we read an article in the Toledo Blade where one boy from Marion O and another from Whitehouse, Ohio have been liberated from Stalag 13 D the camp where our son Frank was last heard from.

We are just wondering if any of you people have heard from the government or from your sons personally, as almost two weeks have elapsed since the 13 D was liberated, and that camp is located near Nuernberg, which fell to the allies on Tuesday April 17th.

We realize that it is a big job to let all the next of kin know about the boys, and it is quite a job to transport all these boys to towns where contact can be made with the government.

Read an article in the paper the other night stating that there were about 20,000 American prisoners released, and that they are taken at the rate of 25 a trip to some town in Germany where they are reported to the government and no doubt to the Red Cross, and it is also probably possible that from there the boys themselves might get a chance to write home or cable. They are transported in PC 47's and there are so many prisoners released that the Governments told the boys to stay where they were until they could transport them to other points. In one case a Major General of the U S Army was in command of one of the German Prison Camps. The enemy abandoned the camp when they knew that the allies were near.

If we get any information or hear anything of great importance will immediately let you know.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Frank J Lehnert,
2805- 118th St,
Toledo, 11, Ohio.

Charges to pay

s. d.

RECEIVED

POST



OFFICE

No. 10

OFFICE STAMP

TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

88
ber
ck
48

48 6.40 LONDON T 24

From

To

MRS BERUL L WOELNER 7 QUEEN ST SWINDON-WILTS =

AMREDCROSS FIELD DIRECTOR ON CONTINENT ADVISES
LIBERATION YOUR HUSBAND LT EDWIN D WOELNER ASN

0795113 = AMREDCROSS LONDON +

For
at c

CT 7 ASN 07951.13 +

"TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call, with this form
ompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope.

B or C

Toledo, Ohio. May 30th, 1945.

To families of "Missing Crew"

Dear Friends:-

This will not be too good news for most of us, but we promised just as soon as we heard anything of importance and more definite we would let you know about it.

Frank wrote us that he had to bail out at an altitude of about 25000 ft and the plane was on fire, and that he had been hit in the back with flak. This is all he told us about the mission and he states that he has not heard from us for six months, which leads us to believe that he has not received any of our letters since Dec. 29th 1944.

We are also told that the tail gunner does not go thru the ship to make his jump, which would also indicate that Frank might not be in a position to say who jumped, or what happened inside the plane.

He also tell us he probably will not be home right away as there are not enough ships to carry both equipment, supplies and men.

Any further news will be passed on promptly, so until then,

Best wishes to all,

Sincerely

Mr. & Mrs. Frank J Lehnert
2805- 118th St,
Toledo, 11, Ohio.

Dear Dave

I have written to Beryl
whom dad visited on Feb. 2nd
your anniversary. She is well
and has everything under
control. Dad says that she is
sensible as well as sweet
and pretty. We hope to see
her soon. I had hoped be

fore this. Dad is well and
still going strong. Sister
hopes that Allen will be
here before long. I had
hoped for a church

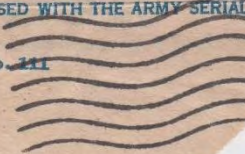
wedding but I'm not sure
it will work out. Uncle
Blick has been ill but he
is better now. Squee has
taken on new life now that
Spring is here; stayed out
all night recently. Aunt
Adeline and Uncle Arthur
want to be remembered. Uncle
Arthur has started his garden.
Flowers are surely his hobby.

TOP PANEL

John is spending a few months at the same place we visited several years ago. Do you remember they might you drove straight through and then when you decided to rest a little chose a spot near a railroad crossing?
Love dear Mother

IMPORTANT: FOR PRISONERS IN GERMAN HANDS THE PRISONER OF WAR NUMBER SHOULD BE CLEARLY INDICATED IF KNOWN. IT MUST NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE ARMY SERIAL NUMBER

W. D. FORM No. 411



Mrs E D Woellner Sr
3384 Buxton St
Cincinnati 20 Ohio

FROM (SENDER'S FULL NAME AND ADDRESS)

PRISONER OF WAR POST
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



RANK AND NAME
(CAPITAL LETTERS)

LT. E.D.WOELLNER

UNITED STATES PRISONER OF WAR

PRISONER OF WAR No.
(SEE NOTE ON FLAP)

CAMP NAME AND No.

STALAG LUFT III

SUBSIDIARY CAMP No.

STALAG LUFT I

COUNTRY

GERMANY

11875

U.S. CENSOR

VIA NEW YORK, N. Y.

Sent 5 April; returned 16 June '45

Charges to pay

s. d.

RECEIVED

POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

No. 13
OFFICE STAMP

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

71

From

71 6.22 LONDON TELEX 35

To

MRS BERYL L WOELLNER 7 QUEEN STREET SWINDON

WILTS ENGLAND

= YOUR HUSBAND FIRST LIEUTENANT DWIN D WOELLNER
O-795113 HAS BEEN RETURNED TO MILITARY CONTROL
8 MAY 45 = DWIGHT D EISENHOWER COMMANDING
GENERAL UNITED STATES FORCES

For free repetition of doubtful
at office of delivery. Other enq

7 0-795113 8 45 or C

G.N.P.O. Ltd. 61-6152

RECEIVED

TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

99

From

199 2.0 LONDON TELEX 54/52

To

MRS BERYL L WOELLNER 7 QUEEN STREET SWINDON

WILTS ENGLAND

FROM HQ UK BASE 081333 B THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES
PE TO INFORM YOU YOUR HUSBAND FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWIN D
WOELLNER JUNIOR CM O-795113 RETURNED TO MILITARY
CONTROL 8 MAY 45 PD DWIGHT D EISENHOWER COMMANDING
GENERAL UNITED STATES ARMY BT 081333 B

s form
nvelope.

B or C

G.N.P.O. Ltd. 61-6152

Convoy of Menage
Prep for Invasion
RELATED EVENTS - WWII EDW

On June 6, 1944, while flying at about 5000 ft. on an administrative mission from East Anglia to London, I became aware of a lot of action below in the English Channel. As I drew closer, I saw thousands of vessels of all kinds headed East toward the coast of France. The highly classified, very secret Operation Overlord, the invasion of Europe, was underway. What a thrill it was to me to see this vast panorama of destruction and potential for victory. Clearly also, it was the assurance of death that produced in me a very somber and respectful feeling. Later, I wrote an article called, 'This is it!'

On Oct 14, 1944, the U.S Eighth Air Force attacked rail centers in several German cities as part of a massive joint operation, called 'Hurricane.' There were 1251 bomber aircraft in this force escorted by 749 fighters. My B-17 was one of these bombers, targeting Cologne.

During my incarceration, I did a great deal of reading and some writing. The experience of deprivation of major amenities, especially food can be a valuable lesson in humbleness. I lost 85 pounds but stayed at exercise, found a reliable source of drinking water (by boiling it) and stayed as clean as possible. I had a major vision during this period. At a time of a little personal depression with the feeling that all could be lost, I looked up at the sky at dusk one evening during my stroll around the compound. I saw a clearly defined white cross made up of ...what? Mysteriously, it conveyed a message of hope and, clearly, I heard a message of assurance. The incident worked a miracle and my confidence remained solid, not only then but ever since.

At the end of my stay in Germany, I went out beyond the barbed wire alone and walked along the shore of the Baltic Sea. There I ran into a tragic sight of three female bodies, clearly a Grandmother, a Mother, a child, all shot through the head. They lay beside a perambulator, presumably having died to escape the ruthlessness of the Russian soldier.

Just before being transported back to France, I saw a small version of a 'death' camp. Hundreds of starving and dying individuals who had clearly gone through hell, lay or sat behind their wire confinement, waiting, still waiting for an escape from death and this was just a small replica of Dachau.

Convoy of
Mendoc
Map for
RELATED EVENTS - WWII
EDW

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On Oct 14, 1944, the U.S. Eighth Air Force attacked rail centers in Germany as part of a massive joint operation, called "Hurricane". There were many aircraft in this force escorted by 749 fighters. My B-17 was one of these bombers, targeting Cologne.

Karen
Cerbooth - Air Comm

During my incarceration, I did a great deal of reading and some writing. The experience of deprivation of major amenities, especially food can be a valuable lesson in humbleness. I lost 85 pounds but stayed at exercise, found a reliable source of drinking water (by boiling it) and stayed as clean as possible. I had a major vision during this period. At a time of a kind personal depression with the feeling that all could be lost, I looked up at the sky and saw one evening during my stroll around the compound, I saw a clearly defined white cross in the sky. What? Mystical? It conveyed a message of hope and I found a message in answer. The incident worked a miracle and my confidence in myself was then but ever since.

W - U
200 West Ward St
Springfield, Ill
45501-0720

Just before being transported back to France, I saw a small version of a "death" camp. Hungry, dying and dying individuals who had clearly gone through hell, lay or sat behind their own camp, waiting, still waiting for an escape from death and this was just a small replica of what

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WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LC=Deferred Cable

NLT=Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

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1379 13 COLLECT=CAMPATTERBURY 24 IND 28

COL EDWIN D WOELINER= (WOELINER)

5384 BISHOP ST CINE

289

ORDERS FOR SEPARATION RECEIVED PD RETURN TO THIS STATION FOR
SEPARATION PROCESSING=

DUNN CO SEP CTR.

TS DA 328A- DA 608A-

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

/mn
28 SEP 1949

SUBJECT: Commendation

THRU: Commanding Officer
Hq & Hq Squadron
Ninth Air Force
Langley Air Force Base
Virginia

TO: Captain Edwin D. Woellner
Asst Professor of Air Science and Tactics
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

1. I wish to commend you for your superior performance of duty while on temporary duty at Slocum Air Force Base, New Rochelle, New York.

2. The Commanding General of the XVI Air Force Service Command, Special, has informed me that you exhibited overall efficiency as Unit Instructor of that organization, foresight and judgment in planning an effective training program, excellent management in carrying out the administrative functions of the organization, and tact and helpfulness in assisting the officers of that Command.

3. This communication will be made a part of your official record.

D. F. STACE
Brigadier General, USAF
Commanding

